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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

Pat Donovar Rm 544

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

8310-MEA CN9300398

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Honorable Christopher J. Dodd United States Senate 444 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

MAR 2 2 1993

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Senator Dodd:

Thank you for your letter regarding recent cable television system rate increases in advance of the implementation of the Cable Act of 1992. We have received similar complaints from all over the country.

The Commission has a clear understanding that Congress adopted the Cable Act of 1992 to constrain unreasonable cable rates. The Commission is in the process of formulating rules implementing the rate provisions of the law and is seeking public comment on those provisions that address rate rollbacks, refunds, and evasions of statutory requirements. The Commission will attempt to implement these provisions faithfully, and will consider the conduct of the cable industry during the interim period in deciding what kind of regulation is needed.

Until this rulemaking proceeding is completed, however, we cannot know the full range of options that may be available or prudent. Accordingly, we are not able at this time to state what actions the federal government or local communities may take in response to the situations you have described.

Your letter will be placed in the record of this proceeding so that the Commission can be mindful of your concerns during its deliberations. I trust that the foregoing and the enclosures are informative.

Sincerely,

Roy J. Stewart Chief, Mass Media Bureau

Enclosures

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Congressional

CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING SYSTEM 02/03/93

LETTER REPORT

CONTROL NO. DATE RECEIVED DATE OF CORRESP DATE DUE DATE DUE OLA(857) 02/0**\$**793 12/21/92 02/17/93 REPLY FOR SIG OF MEMBERS NAME Chris Dodd BC Senator CONSTITUENT'S NAME SUBJECT inq. re: rate regulation & 92 Cable Act personal view REF TO REF TO DATE DATE DATE 2-4-93 2.5

REMARKS:

CHRÎSTOPHER J. DODD

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0702

December 21, 1992

MNB Notes

Alfred C. Sikes, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Sikes:

I am writing to inquire about the Commission's consideration of recent complaints of cable television rate hikes to take place in early 1993.

I have been contacted by constituents throughout the State of Connecticut expressing concern about proposed rate increases, effective January 1, on the part of several different cable companies. It is my understanding that rules pursuant to P.L. 102-385, the Cable Television Consumer Protection Act, are due to take effect in April of next year. Could you please explain what authority exists over rate increases during the lapse between enactment of the legislation and implementation of enforcing regulations, by securing rate increases in early 1993.

I also would appreciate knowing whether the FCC has received similar complaints in this regard, and what actions, if any, are

